



District Council of Mount Remarkable



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

Already, the end of the year is quickly approaching, and I am pleased to report that Council has been in full swing since the adoption of the 2023/2024 Annual Business Plan and Budget. With all the adopted capital projects underway, and some looking to be completed earlier than expected, we are actively delivering on our commitments.

Council has deliberated over several issues in the past few months, and I encourage our community to engage with our Councillors on matters as they arise, ensuring we achieve the best and most informed outcomes.

We have witnessed great positive engagement, and I am enjoying the feedback and collaborative approach that I am seeing

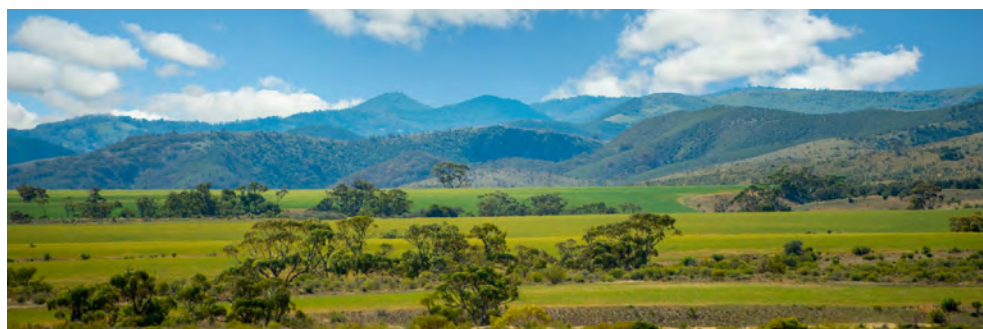
more and more throughout the Council area. I expect this to continue to grow as we further develop and implement our responses to the community survey conducted earlier this year.

One of our recent highlights is being named as a finalist in the national Waste & Innovation Awards. The Willowie Waste Transfer Station has been nominated as a finalist for the significant work that Council has done in adapting to a circular economy by reducing our landfill by 98%. This is just one example of how we are now starting to see the benefits of the change management process that has been well underway at Council for some time now.

We continue to review and monitor our strategic documents, and soon we hope to have a draft Economic Development Plan ready for public consultation. Additionally, we have begun the process of reviewing our Community Plan (strategic plan) to ensure we are aligned with the growing needs and aspirations of our community. Sustainability remains a key focus and will continue to be a prominent feature in our discussions to ensure that the decisions we make as a Council position us for success, not just now but well into the future.

I reiterate my commitment to engagement and encourage everyone to contact me and your local Councillors with any suggestions and feedback you might have.

Mayor Stephen McCarthy



COUNCIL NEWS

Upcoming Ordinary Council meeting dates
Community Question Time 5.30pm - 6.00pm
Ordinary Meeting of Council 6.00pm

- » 21 Nov - Melrose Council Chambers
- » 12 Dec - Port Germein Community Hub

Audit & Risk Committee
Next meeting:

- » Friday 10 November 2023, 11.00am

To access copies of current and past Council and Committee meeting agendas and minutes click here:

[Council Agenda and Minutes | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

[Committees | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

Media Releases

Media releases issued since the previous newsletter are available here: [Latest News | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)

Newsletters

Previous issues of newsletters are available here: [Council | District Council of Mount Remarkable \(mtr.sa.gov.au\)](https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au)



OUR COMMUNITY BUS: A CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION

We have a fantastic asset that serves our district – our community bus. This versatile resource offers numerous benefits to our community already, but many may not know that it is also available for hire by anyone with the appropriate license.

The community bus is not just about transportation; it serves to include and empower many vulnerable citizens within our district. Funded by Council and managed by the Booleroo District Hospital, it plays a significant role in creating a more connected community such as:

- » **Seniors.** Our elderly residents can enjoy hassle-free access to essential services and social activities.
- » **Residents of Nursing Homes/Retirement Facilities.** The bus provides a means for them to engage with the broader community.
- » **Individuals with Disabilities.** Whether the disability is permanent or temporary, the bus ensures that vital services are within reach.
- » **Carers and Companions.** Those accompanying eligible passengers are welcome to join the journey.



The community bus offers a flexible and accessible solution, ensuring everyone in our district can access essential services and social opportunities. It fosters a sense of belonging, helping to reduce loneliness and social isolation, making our community stronger.

The best part is that the community bus is available for hire to anyone with the appropriate license! Whether your part of a community group, or simply wish to organise an outing with friends and family, the bus is at your service.

For inquiries about availability, costs, and bookings, please contact the Booleroo District Hospital on 08 8667 2211.

Let's embrace this wonderful resource and make the most of it. The community bus is a resource for all members of our community so why not use it?

2024 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS – NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

It's that time of the year again when we come together to honour the unsung heroes among us. The Citizen of the Year Awards are back for 2024, and we need your help to recognise those individuals and groups who have made remarkable contributions to our community.

Why Nominate? The Citizen of the Year Awards celebrate and commend those who have gone above and beyond, making our community a better place. They shine a light on individuals and organisations whose outstanding service often goes unnoticed. Their dedication spans various fields, including education, health, fundraising, charity work, sports, arts, and environmental initiatives, among others. These contributions are the threads that weave the fabric of our society, making it stronger and more vibrant.

2024 Award Categories

- » **Citizen of the Year Award:** Honouring the most outstanding Citizen in our local government area.
- » **Young Citizen of the Year Award:** Celebrating exceptional young individuals aged 16 to 30.
- » **Junior Citizen of the Year Award:** Recognising young talents under the age of 16.
- » **Community Event of the Year Award:** Commending those who have organised exceptional community events.
- » **Award for Active Citizenship:** Applauding those who have made significant contributions to our community through projects and events.

Nominations open: 18 September 2023

Nominations close: Friday 17 November 2023



You can nominate deserving individuals or organisations through the online portal provided by the Australia Day Council of South Australia's website or by using the form available through Council. For online nominations, visit <https://citizenoftheyear.com.au/nominate/>.

Alternatively, you can download the nomination form at https://www.mtr.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0029/1475192/coty_nom_form_2024_final.pdf complete it, and submit it to Council via email at postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au. You can also deliver the completed form in person or by post (must be received before 17 November 2023) to the Council Administration Office at 3 Stuart Street, Melrose.

Elected Members will assess nominations at the December 2023 Ordinary Meeting of Council, currently scheduled for 12 December. The awards will be presented during our community's 2024 Australia Day celebrations by a Council official.

Winners from our local awards will be submitted to the Australia Day Council of South Australia for consideration in the State Awards. Please note that the "Junior Citizen of the Year" category is not eligible for the State Awards.

Encourage your friends, family and neighbours to nominate someone they believe deserves recognition. Together, let's make the 2024 Citizen of the Year Awards the most memorable yet!

[PLEASE NOTE: If you are nominating a special young person for the Junior Citizen of the Year Award, you must use *this application form* and submit it directly to Council, as we have created a modified nomination form to include the Junior Citizen of the Year Award.]





COUNCIL SUPPORTS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

In a display of solidarity, Council proudly joined millions worldwide in acknowledging Breast Cancer Awareness Month throughout October. Our inclusive and compassionate community recognises the significance of this month, promoting awareness, prevention, and support in the fight against breast cancer.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month serves as a poignant reminder of the far-reaching impact of breast cancer. In Australia, it is the most diagnosed cancer among women, affecting approximately 57 Australians every day. That equates to over 20,000 new breast cancer diagnoses each year.

Our office staff, in varying shades of pink attire, embody the symbolism of unity and hope, showing their support for this vital cause. October evokes diverse emotions for different individuals—whether a time for celebration, quiet reflection, or remembrance of loved ones.

We urge everyone to seize this opportunity to learn more about breast cancer, its risk factors, and the paramount importance of early detection through regular screenings. Early detection saves lives, and it's a message we must all help spread.

For those who may have delayed their annual mammograms due to COVID-19 challenges, we implore you to schedule your appointments now. Encourage friends and family to do the same, as early detection remains our most potent weapon against breast cancer.

Consider making a donation to www.bcna.org.au, an invaluable resource guiding individuals through the complexities of breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month transcends pink ribbons; it's about creating a meaningful impact in the lives of those affected by breast cancer. Together, as a united community, we can raise awareness, provide support, and work towards a future where breast cancer is a thing of the past.



WEEROONA ISLAND PLAYGROUND: A HAVEN FOR FAMILIES AND FUN

Council is excited to announce the opening of the revamped Weeroona Island Playground, a testament to our commitment to creating a remarkable outdoor experience for families and youth. In April 2023, Council approved \$110,000 capital expenditure to renew this coastal gem, following comprehensive playground inspections that revealed the need for revitalisation.

Mayor Stephen McCarthy emphasised the importance of the project, saying, "Our data showed the necessity to increase annual spend on playground maintenance or reduce the number of playgrounds. We chose the former to ensure a vibrant play environment is functional and maintained for our families."

The playground renewal project was accommodated within the existing budget framework. It aligns with Council's goal of enhancing the community and attracting tourism. With the existing shade structure intact, the playground now boasts a range of new equipment, including a customised elevated structure with six platforms at different heights, curved and straight slides, step traverse, rope climber, grid joiner, wave bars, hang 'n' glide apparatus, stairs, two-bay post swing structure, swing-a-way, strap and toddler seats, carousel with rails, jitterbug 2-person rocker, and boat rocker.

The Weeroona Island Playground not only caters to our local community but also beckons tourists to explore its wonders. Families can now relish quality outdoor time in this remarkable setting, with children enjoying the new play equipment while parents and caregivers relax at the adjacent park and BBQ area.

We invite everyone, from residents to tourists, to experience the Weeroona Island Playground. Council remains dedicated to enriching our community's quality of life, ensuring our remarkable district continues to cater to families.



Asher Church from Port Pirie had his first visit to the Island and said it was great! Photo: Neralie Bailey. Image courtesy of SA Today.



District Council of
Mount Remarkable

THE FLINDERS MOBILE LIBRARY - BRINGING BOOKS TO YOUR DOORSTEP

The Flinders Mobile Library is a true gem of our community. Its purpose is to ensure that the joys of reading are accessible to all, no matter where you live.

In a region where having a fixed library isn't practical, the Flinders Mobile Library steps in as a lifeline for book enthusiasts of all ages. Serving towns within the Mount Remarkable, Northern Areas, and Port Pirie Regional Council areas, this mobile library visits all towns in our region including Appila, Booleroo Centre, Georgetown, Gladstone, Gulnare, Koolunga, Laura, Melrose, Murraytown, Napperby, Port Germein, Redhill, Spalding, Wilmington, Wirrabara, and Yacka. It also visits primary schools in Gladstone, Laura, Koolunga, Napperby, Melrose, Wilmington, Spalding and the Booleroo Centre District School.

The Flinders Mobile Library operates like clockwork, visiting each town and school on a fortnightly basis throughout the year. This consistency ensures that you always have access to a wide range of books, including fiction, non-fiction, DVDs, CDs, and magazines. It's not just about books; the library also offers free Wi-Fi and a PC for your convenience.

One of the most significant perks of being part of the Flinders Mobile Library is that it's part of the "one card" network of South Australian Public Libraries. Your membership here opens the doors to every library in South Australia. You also get access to a treasure trove of eBooks, eAudiobooks, and digital magazines, all available online, all for free!

The Flinders Mobile Library isn't just about books; it's about connecting our community. It brings the love of reading to people who might otherwise struggle to access library materials due to the remoteness of our towns.

Mobile libraries have a rich history in South Australia, dating back to 1963 with the launch of the Sir Baden Pattinson Mobile Library. Today, there are 78 such libraries operating across the country, making vital contributions to rural and remote communities. Our Flinders Mobile Library is part of this legacy, ensuring that the joy of reading reaches every corner of our region and country.

In a world that's increasingly digital, the Flinders Mobile Library keeps the tradition of reading alive. It's a testament to our commitment to education, culture, and community. So, make sure to check out the Flinders Mobile Library's in 2023. It's a treasure trove on wheels that's worth exploring!



Flinders Mobile Library

www.onecard.network/flindersmobile

Town	October	November	December
WILMINGTON 12.45pm - 2.15pm	Tuesday	Tuesday	Tuesday
MELROSE 3.00pm - 5.00pm	3, 17, 31	14, 28	12
WIRABARA 10.15am - 11.45am	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday
MURRAY TOWN 12.45pm - 1.45pm	5, 19	2, 16, 30	14
APPILA 2.30pm - 3.30pm	Thursday	Thursday	Thursday
PORT GERMEIN 10.00am - 12.30pm	12, 26	9, 23	7
BOOLEROO CENTRE 12.30pm - 4.00pm	Friday	Friday	Friday
	13, 27	10, 24	8

RETURN BOXES are located at the Booleroo Centre IGA, Wilmington Post Office, Store Fifty Four Melrose, and the [Wirrabara Lucky Seven](#).

For more information
- email: flindersmobile_library@gmail.com
Phone/Fax: 8662 2305

Does the Flinders Mobile Library have e-books?

YES!

Library membership gives you access to a 100,000+ e-books, e-audio books and e-magazines on your digital device/s for FREE.

All you need is to be a library member.

So how do I Join?

Membership of the Library is free to all residents of South Australia. You can join either by coming into the Library with proof of ID and address, or you can join on-line via our website to access all of the Libraries SA network's e-resources without ever coming into the Library.

The 2 e-resources apps the Library uses are:



Libby



BorrowBox

There is a wide variety of material available, both children's and adult's fiction, cook books and biographies to weekly magazines and scientific publications and everything in-between—in both e-book and e-audio format.

All for free and available wherever you are!

Links to download the apps are available from our website:

www.onecard.network/flindersmobile

Library staff are always willing to help in the setup of the apps so you can take full advantage of these resources.

Flinders Mobile Library





RU OK?

RU OK? FOSTERING MENTAL WELLBEING AT WORK AND IN OUR COMMUNITY

In recent years, the importance of mental health and suicide prevention has become increasingly prevalent in public discussions. Council recently commemorated RUOK? Day, acknowledging the significance of this initiative. While we've made strides in raising awareness of mental health, the challenges persist, with rising rates of mental illness and suicide, even among adolescents and children.

It's essential to remember that poor mental health and mental illness are not one and the same. Just as we can be physically unwell without being sick, individuals can experience mental health struggles without a formal diagnosis. So, how can we effectively support those in our community who may need help with various mental health needs?

Situational stress, stemming from factors like grief, job stress, relationship issues, or natural disasters, can contribute to mental health challenges. Additionally, long-term, and severe stress, often experienced by those living with poverty, violence, discrimination, or loneliness, can lead to both physical and mental health issues. It's crucial to recognise and offer support to individuals facing these stressors.

For every suicide, there are more than 20 suicide attempts. It's evident that Australia faces a significant challenge, but finding solutions remains complex. While we may question whether a simple inquiry like "RU OK?" can truly make a difference, it's crucial to remember that our actions, no matter how small, can have a positive impact.

When someone shares their struggles, whether it's grief, overwhelming stress, or hopelessness due to poverty, our response matters. Practical gestures like delivering a meal or helping with daily tasks can be immensely helpful. Equally important is offering a listening ear without judgment, as sometimes individuals simply need support rather than solutions.

Our community can play a pivotal role in supporting mental health initiatives. By contributing to local initiatives like food banks, services for the elderly, and youth health programs, we strengthen the fabric of our community. Additionally, advocating for fair and equitable policies at state and federal levels ensures that vulnerable Australians have access to fundamental resources such as housing, food, and safety.

Many individuals live with the enduring effects of trauma, which can impact their daily lives in profound ways. When someone discloses trauma, it's crucial to listen and respect their decisions. Asking a simple question like "How can I help?" allows individuals to seek support while maintaining a sense of control over their situation.

Mental health exists on a spectrum, with varying levels of severity and duration. While some individuals may experience short-term challenges, others face lifelong struggles. Diagnosing mental illness can be complex, especially when other factors like cultural diversity or physical illnesses are involved. Seeking professional help is essential in ensuring an accurate diagnosis and appropriate care.

While we cannot cure everything, we can offer empathy, support, and companionship. Loneliness often accompanies long-term



suffering, and our community can strive to provide comfort and care throughout the year.

We often find it easier to discuss mental health for others than for ourselves. Self-stigma, guilt, and shame can hinder us from seeking help when needed. Consider scheduling a physical and mental health check-up with your GP if you feel like you are struggling.

To truly address mental health challenges, we must address our own behaviour at the individual, local, and national levels. Workplaces that tolerate financial abuse, bullying, or harassment harm mental health. Domestic violence, poverty, and discrimination also have detrimental effects. By fostering a culture of understanding, kindness, and support, we can collectively reduce mental harm in our community.

Let's continue to prioritise mental health at work and in our community, ensuring that no one suffers in silence. Remember, a simple question like "RU OK?" can make a world of difference to someone in need. Together, we can create a more resilient and compassionate community for everyone.





CAPITAL WORKS PROGRAM AND INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE BRINGING REMARKABLE RESULTS

As winter bids us farewell and spring arrives, our district maintenance team, known as Team Remarkable, has been hard at work ensuring that our community remains safe, functional, and enjoyable for all. At the same time, Council is making significant progress with its ambitious Capital Projects Program.

Between July and September, Team Remarkable has completed 361 kilometres of road grading. This commitment ensures the safety and quality of our unsealed roads.

The Booleroo Centre Airport has received essential maintenance to keep its runway in top condition. This is not only about safety but also supports our local economy and connectivity, making our region more accessible.

We prioritise the safety and happiness of our children. Brand new playground equipment has been installed, replacing items that had to be removed due to safety concerns. Our kids now have a fun and secure space to play, learn, and grow at more playgrounds throughout the district.

Road safety is of utmost importance. We've installed new railway crossing signage at Port Germein, enhancing the safety of both motorists and pedestrians. These improvements are critical in reducing potential risks and ensuring a safe flow of traffic in the area.

With the swimming season just around the corner, we've taken significant steps to prepare the Booleroo Centre Memorial Swimming Pool. After renovations, the pool is set to provide a rejuvenated and enjoyable space for all water enthusiasts in our community and visitors alike.

Behind the scenes, we've been diligently maintaining and testing the CWMS Booleroo Centre and Wirrabara pump stations and irrigation systems. This ensures the efficient and reliable operation of these critical systems, which play an essential role in cultivating our parks and gardens in those communities.

BOOLEROO CENTRE MEMORIAL SWIMMING POOL

Yes, We Are (nearly...)

Open!

The 2023/24 swimming season will commence on Sunday 12 November 2023!

	Season Pass	Single Entry
Family	\$235	\$25
Single Adult	\$140	\$8
Student/Child	\$125	\$6
Concession	\$125	\$6
Non-swimmers	Free	Free



In parallel, Council's most ambitious Capital Projects Program is in full swing. Projects include the completion of Booleroo Centre airport lighting, repairs to six bridges, and the installation of new floodways at Voigt Rd, Bruce, and Collins Rd, Booleroo Centre.

Mayor Stephen McCarthy has expressed his enthusiasm, emphasising that these completed projects provide peace of mind to our residents through increased safety and preparedness. Each project encompasses meticulous design, engineering, landscape protection, safeguarding of critical services, responsible demolition, and quality construction to ensure long-term performance.

The \$5 million program, scheduled through to June 2024, includes additional projects like a new playground at Port Germein, three new bridges at Appila, Forest Rd, and Port Germein, painting the Wilmington Main Street Toilets and Wirrabara Institute, and four more floodways across the district.

We are dedicated to creating a safer and better living environment for all of our residents and look forward to more exciting developments in the coming months. Stay tuned for further updates on the remarkable work taking place in our district!



WILLOWIE WASTE TRANSFER STATION RECEIVES REMARKABLE RECOGNITION

Council's recent investment in developing best practice processes and constructing the Willowie Waste Transfer Station has been recognised nationally as a finalist in the 'Outstanding WARR Project: Regional/Rural' category of the 2023 Waste Innovation and Recycling Awards.

"Being announced as a finalist for this national award illustrates the level of great work being undertaken at the Council. As part of a significant change process, we have invested heavily in several areas to bring about increased efficiencies consistent with our long-term financial viability and sustainability planning for our community," said Mayor Stephen McCarthy.

The Willowie Waste Transfer Station was part of the Council's commitment to supporting and adopting a circular economy. The site accepts waste from two other Councils as well as the Mount Remarkable district. In completing this project, which was jointly funded by Green Industries SA, the Council has been able to significantly reduce landfill waste and increase recycling for three regional Council areas. This demonstrates Council's commitment to maintaining a clean environment and reducing our ecological footprint.

"This nomination is recognition that even the smallest of Councils can achieve great things. Our journey over the past three years has been a robust change continuum, and this national recognition further testifies to what we have achieved and continue to achieve at Team Remarkable," said Council's Chief Executive Officer, Sam Johnson.

The awards are open to all relevant industry bodies within the waste sector, not just local government. The winner of the award will be announced later this month at a formal gala award ceremony held in Melbourne.



DISPOSE OF E-WASTE RESPONSIBLY AT WILLOWIE TRANSFER STATION

In our rapidly advancing digital age, the use of electronic devices is at an all-time high. But with great technology comes a great responsibility - the responsible disposal of electronic waste, or e-waste. The District Council of Mount Remarkable has been in partnership for several years with TechCollect to provide a solution for proper e-waste disposal at the Willowie Transfer Station.

What is E-Waste?

E-waste comprises a range of electronic items, including televisions, computers (including laptops, and more), monitors and projectors (CRT and LCD), printers, scanners, fax machines, and Multi-Functional Devices (MFDs), as well as computer peripherals like power supplies, cables, and accessories.

Items Not Accepted Under the Scheme

Certain electronic products are not part of the program and should be disposed of separately during Hard Waste Collection. These include DVD players, VCRs, Set-top boxes, game consoles, cameras, video recorders, mobile phones and accessories, sound systems, CD players, white goods (fridges, washing machines, dryers, microwaves), vacuum cleaners, other kitchen and household electronic appliances, loose batteries (place in general waste), and loose printer cartridges. Hazardous waste, including damaged CRT TVs, will not be accepted.

Why Recycle E-Waste?

E-waste, including televisions and computers, contains hazardous materials like lead, cadmium, and mercury that must be managed safely. Recycling allows us to recover valuable materials such as glass, plastics, iron, steel, aluminium, copper, and precious metals like gold, platinum, and silver. Sending these items to landfills results in the loss of these valuable resources and poses risks to human health and the environment due to the hazardous substances they contain.

Where Can You Recycle?

The Willowie Transfer Station, located on Willowie-Booloroo Road, is your designated drop-off point for e-waste.

Is It Free, and Who Can Use the Service?

This service is entirely free for consumers and is available to households and small businesses. Please note that it is not designed for commercial quantities of electronic waste.

No Removal of Items from Bins

Once deposited in the designated bins, e-waste cannot be removed by site workers or the public. Council is committed to recycling all collected products, ensuring a responsible and secure disposal process.

By recycling your e-waste you contribute to a cleaner environment, prevent the loss of valuable resources, and protect the health of our community. Let's work together to make a positive impact and responsibly manage our electronic waste.

Thank you for your commitment to a sustainable future!





District Council of
Mount Remarkable



DRUMMUSTER 2023: A REMARKABLE SUCCESS

We are pleased to report that the drumMUSTER event held on 10 and 11 October 2023 at the Willowie Transfer Station was an outstanding success! Your Council is proud to be a part of this national program that promotes responsible waste management, and your enthusiastic participation made this event truly remarkable.

For those who may not be familiar with drumMUSTER, it is a national product stewardship program that focuses on collecting and recycling eligible, empty, and clean agricultural and veterinary chemical containers. This program, supported by AgVet chemical manufacturers and industry stakeholders, has been contributing to a more sustainable environment since its inception in 1998.

Before drumMUSTER, landholders had limited options for disposing of these containers in an environmentally sound manner. Burying, burning, illegal dumping, or sending drums to landfills were the norm.

However, with the adoption of product stewardship and a commitment to responsible land management, drumMUSTER has become a game-changer.

We are thrilled to announce that the Mount Remarkable community wholeheartedly embraced this initiative. Residents, farmers, and chemical users showed their dedication to sound land management practices by participating in drumMUSTER. During the 2-day event, an impressive total of 4,800 drums were collected, showcasing our community's strong commitment to responsible waste management. Your commitment to environmental responsibility is commendable, and it sets a great example for the rest of the state.

The collected containers are transported to a dedicated, secure collection facility, where they undergo a rigorous inspection process to ensure they meet cleanliness standards. Once a collection site is full, recycling processors take over.

These containers are either baled or chipped onsite and then transported to a recycling depot for processing. This is where the magic happens!

Recycled plastic remanufacturers use these containers to create various useful products, such as wheelie bins, cable covers, public furniture, road markers, construction

materials, and garden equipment. This transformation from waste to valuable resources contributes significantly to a circular economy and a sustainable future.

We want to express our gratitude to all those who participated in the drumMUSTER event. Your commitment to responsible waste management and the environment is truly inspiring. By supporting this program, you are making a positive impact not only locally but also on a national scale.

Once again, thank you to all for making drumMUSTER 2023 an incredible success.





BUSHFIRE SAFETY AND PREPAREDNESS

As summer fast approaches, it's crucial for all residents in our district to be well-prepared for the increased risk of bushfires. Bushfires can pose a serious threat to our homes, properties, and the entire community. To ensure everyone's safety, here are some essential tips and guidelines.

Home Safety. Bushfires can impact homes in both urban and rural areas. Embers and low-level surface fires can easily ignite houses. It's vital to:

- » Clear vegetation-based mulch away from your home.
- » Keep trees that are close to structures well-maintained and free of combustible debris.
- » Prepare a fire action plan for your home and communicate it with your family.

Reducing Fuel on Your Property.

Whether you live in a town or on a farm, reducing fuel on your property is critical:

- » Regularly clear dry leaves, twigs, and other combustible materials from your property.
- » Follow a fire action plan that includes fuel reduction measures.

Vehicle Safety.

Vehicle exhausts can cause fires. To prevent this:

- » Inspect your vehicle's exhaust system regularly and clear away flammable materials.
- » Avoid parking in dry grass or crop paddocks.

Machinery Maintenance.

Farmers should maintain their machinery to prevent fires during farming operations by regularly:

- » Check machinery for defects that could lead to fires.
- » Keep equipment clean and well-lubricated to avoid overheating.

LP Gas Safety.

For those using LP Gas on farms or in towns:

- » Follow the manufacturer's instructions for safe LP Gas usage.
- » Check for leaks regularly and store cylinders properly.

Haystack and Grain Safety.

Haystacks and grain storage areas can be susceptible to fires. To minimise risks:

- » Ensure hay is well-cured before baling.
- » Store hay and grain away from potential ignition sources.
- » Create fuel breaks and have firefighting equipment on hand.

By following these guidelines, town residents and farmers can enhance their preparedness and contribute to the safety of the entire community. Remember, while we can't eliminate all risks, these measures are essential parts of a strategy to increase the likelihood of your property and our community surviving a bushfire.

Stay safe and vigilant as we enter the summer season in Mount Remarkable. Your proactive efforts can make a significant difference in safeguarding our homes, livelihoods and communities.





THE BATTLE AGAINST BUFFEL GRASS

In the heart of semi-arid Australia, a relentless invader has been wreaking havoc on our fragile ecosystems. Buffel grass (*Cenchrus ciliaris*), a seemingly innocuous plant, has become a noxious weed that is a significant threat to our natural environment.

Buffel grass is a deep-rooted, summer-growing perennial grass that reaches up to 50cm in height. Its distinctive purple seed heads, covered in white bristles, give it a fluffy appearance. The invasive weed is native to Africa and Asia and is believed to have arrived in Australia 150 years ago in the packsaddles of Afghan cameleers. Cattlemen took an interest in the grass when they discovered it was drought resistant and able to withstand heavy grazing, and it quickly became the pasture grass of choice among graziers in northern Australia. It's now moving south, often along roads and railways, adapting to more temperate climates such as the Northern and Yorke Landscapes Board district. Today, it's an invasive weed that produces wildfires so hot it has the potential to transform entire woodlands into grasslands of a single species.

Once established, buffel grass forms dense monocultures that outcompete native species, leading to food and habitat loss for our native plants and wildlife.

This resilient grass can withstand droughts, fires, and heavy grazing, making it a formidable adversary. Buffel grass reproduces rapidly, both by seed and vegetative means, and can colonise a broad range of soil types and landscapes.

Recognizing the gravity of the situation, buffel grass has been declared under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA). This means that it is illegal to transport or sell this plant, and all property owners, including renters, bear the responsibility of controlling it.

Controlling established infestations is challenging and may require repeated efforts over several years. To tackle this menace effectively, a combination of chemical and mechanical control methods is recommended.

Chemical Control: When buffel grass is actively growing (usually Dec-March and after summer rain), use a herbicide mix of 26mls of glyphosate, 30mls of flupropanate, and 500mls of Bioweed Organic in 10 litres of water. Bioweed Organic, derived from pine oil, suppresses seeds and aids in cracking them prematurely. Follow label directions diligently.

Mechanical Control: For seedlings, small plants, and minor infestations, grubbing can be effective. Ensure all roots are removed and monitor for regrowth. Proper disposal of grubbed plants is crucial to prevent further spread.

In response to a recent report by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), which highlighted buffel grass's destructive impact on landscapes and communities, the South Australian Government and the Alinytjara Wilurara Landscape Board have allocated over \$2.2 million to combat this threat. The South Australia Buffel Grass Strategic Plan (2019–2024) can be found [here](#).

Northern and Yorke Landscape Board are one of the program partners and are providing funding and staff resources to the efforts to contain the spread of this significant pest plant.



TACKLING GAZANIAS TO PROTECT OUR PRECIOUS LANDSCAPES

Spring has sprung, and with it comes the vibrant Gazania, but there's more to this charming plant than meets the eye.

What Does Gazania Look Like? Gazania, originally from South Africa, stands at around 30cm tall and showcases daisy-like flowers in various colours. Its slender, dark green-silver leaves are covered in fine hairs. Gazanias form dense mats and bloom from June to December, mainly in disturbed areas.

What is Gazania's Impact? Despite its allure, Gazania is a declared weed under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA). It easily colonises disturbed ground, invading bushland, crops, and vineyards. Once established, Gazanias outcompete native plants for resources, causing degradation of road reserves and coastal dune ecosystems.

Our Responsibilities: The transport and sale of Gazania plants are prohibited in our region under the Landscape South Australia Act 2019 (SA). Preventing its spread is crucial.

We have two primary methods for addressing Gazania infestations.

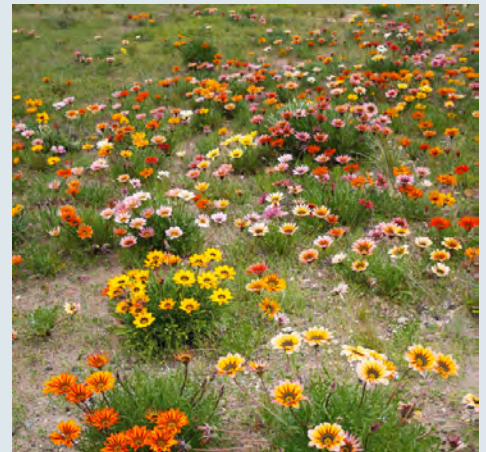
Physical Control: For small infestations, carefully grub out the plants, ensuring all rhizomes (creeping rootstalk) are removed. Dispose of the plants by bagging the flower heads first to prevent seed dispersal and place them in your red rubbish bin for deep burial. Compact the soil to deter reinfestation, and consider planting competitive replacements.

Chemical Control: Large infestations are best managed with herbicides. Thoroughly spray the foliage to runoff, ensuring no part of the plant is missed.

Do You Have Gazania? If you suspect Gazania on your property, contact the Northern and

Yorke Landscape Board staff for expert advice. Please contact them by email: ny.landscapeboard@sa.gov.au or phone: 08 8841 3444. Further information can be found [here](#).

Together, let's protect and preserve our remarkable local ecosystems and landscapes from noxious weeds!



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE LANDSCAPE LEVY SURVEY

Your opinion matters, and here's your chance to make a real impact on the future of our beautiful Northern and Yorke region! Landscape South Australia Northern and Yorke invites you to participate in the Landscape Levy Survey, an opportunity to share your thoughts on how they can better care for our natural resources.

Our environment is a precious asset, and it's crucial that we manage it wisely. The landscape levy that is collected by Council from ratepayers and passed onto to Landscape South Australia Northern and Yorke, plays a vital role in preserving and enhancing our region's natural beauty. By providing your feedback, you can help shape the strategies and initiatives that will guide their efforts through to 2026.

Participating is easy! Just take 10 minutes to complete their survey. Your valuable insights will help them understand what aspects of landscape management are most important to you and our community.

As a token of their appreciation for your participation, they are offering you the chance to win one of 15 x \$100 vouchers. A winner will be selected from each council area, so you have a great opportunity to snag one of these fantastic prizes.

The survey is open until 30 November 2023, so be sure to share your thoughts before it closes. Your input can make a significant difference in the way we care for our region's natural resources.

Remember, together, we can ensure that the Northern and Yorke region remains a place of natural beauty for generations to come. So, let your voice be heard and have your say on the Landscape Levy Survey today by visiting <https://www.landscape.sa.gov.au/ny/get-involved/have-your-say> or go directly to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVXGJVY> or use the QR code in the image adjacent to this article.



Scan now or go to [surveymonkey.com/r/GVXGJVY](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVXGJVY)
Survey closes 30 November 2023.

LANDSCAPE SOUTH AUSTRALIA NORTHERN AND YORKE

Have your say

Caring for land, water and nature in the Northern and Yorke region



NAVIGATING CUSTOMER SERVICE REQUESTS

At the District Council of Mount Remarkable, we are on an improvement journey with our Customer Service Requests (CSRs). We want to clarify some important aspects of the CSR process to ensure everyone understands how it works and how to make the most of it.

First and foremost, it's crucial to understand that when you submit a CSR, it's not a customer service "order." They are called customer service "requests" for a reason. The relevant manager who receives and assesses your CSR will determine if it aligns with our Asset Management Plans.

One common misconception revolves around road grading requests. Submitting a CSR to grade your road does not automatically guarantee that it will be graded. The decision depends on our Road Grading Program, which is guided by our Asset Management Plans.

To streamline the process and improve efficiency, we strongly encourage you to supply geotagged photos with your CSR. If you submit a CSR like "pothole on ABC road needs repairing" without specifying the location, our staff may have to search a lengthy road to find the pothole. However, if you include a geotagged photo, our staff can pinpoint the problem swiftly and make repairs promptly and efficiently.

When you submit a CSR, our dedicated team takes the following steps:

- a) Creation of the Customer Service Request.
- b) Forwarding the CSR to the appropriate manager.
- c) Providing you with a copy of the request if requested.
- d) Manager's evaluation and clarification if needed.
- e) Consideration of Council policies, plans and budget.
- f) Determination of Council's responsibility.
- g) Taking necessary corrective actions.
- h) Potential review of Council procedures.
- i) Formal communication of the outcome to the customer.

It's essential to distinguish between a CSR and a complaint. A CSR is a request for service related to Council facilities or amenities, such as pothole reports, maintenance concerns, and more. On the other hand, a complaint addresses administrative actions of the Council, such as decisions, acts, recommendations, or proposals.

If you are not satisfied with the resolution of your CSR or complaint, there are avenues for further action:

- » Request a review by the Director of the relevant department.
- » Approach your Elected Members in writing or in person.
- » Contact external agencies, such as the South Australian Ombudsman, if needed.

We are committed to providing quality service promptly and efficiently. While we may not always achieve complete satisfaction within ten working days (which is our aim for non-emergency works), we will keep you informed about the progress of your request or complaint. Your feedback helps us proactively improve our services.

Our *Customer Service Charter* outlines our commitment to you. We aim to create a culture of customer-focused service, recruit and develop skilled staff, protect your privacy, and use technology to enhance interactions. We also promise to consult with you on important decisions, provide accessible services, and maintain transparency in our actions.

To submit a CSR or provide feedback, you can:

- » Access our website: www.mtr.sa.gov.au
- » Visit our Administration Centre at 3 Stuart Street, Melrose.
- » Call us at (08) 8666 2014.
- » Email us at postmaster@mtr.sa.gov.au.

For those who want to enhance their CSRs with geotagged photos, here's how to activate geotagging on your devices:

For Apple devices:

Go to Settings → Privacy → Location Services, and enable it for the Camera app.

For Android devices:

Go to Settings → Location (or Location and Security), and enable "Use GPS Satellites." Then, enable "Store Location in Pictures" or "Geo-tag Photos."

In conclusion, we want to emphasise that we are committed to providing the best possible service within our available resources. We appreciate your understanding and collaboration as we work together to make the Mount Remarkable district an even better place to live.



CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS OVER THE PHONE

It is the Council's ongoing policy to not accept credit card payments over the phone. We're receiving a few complaints from our valued ratepayers regarding this matter. We understand that this may inconvenience some ratepayers, so we want to clarify the reasoning behind this policy.

Accepting credit card payments over the phone, also known as Card-Not-Present (CNP) transactions, has gained popularity in today's digital age. However, there are significant challenges and risks associated with this method.

One of the primary concerns is security. Card-not-present (CNP) transactions, like those conducted over the phone, account for approximately 80% of fraud cases. This makes it a vulnerable option for businesses, exposing them to potential financial losses due to chargebacks and other fraudulent activities.

Additionally, CNP transactions may incur higher processing fees compared to traditional in-person payments. These increased costs would ultimately be borne by our ratepayers.

To mitigate these risks and ensure the security of ratepayer financial information, we encourage all ratepayers to explore alternative payment methods. You can consider various options such as online payments through our secure website, making in-person payments at our administration office in Melrose, or establishing direct debit arrangements.

We understand that this ongoing change may require an adjustment for some of our residents, but your security and the integrity of our financial transactions are of paramount importance to us. Please rest assured that this decision has been made after careful consideration of the potential risks and challenges associated with over-the-phone credit card payments.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we continue to prioritise the safety and security of financial transactions.





CELEBRATING 25 YEARS - THE BOOLEROO CENTRE AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY AIRSTRIP

In 1998, a remarkable feat unfolded in the heart of our district, as communities united to construct the Booleroo Centre and District Community Airstrip. As we mark its 25th anniversary, we celebrate the invaluable community spirit that brought this project to life, embodying the power of collective efforts towards a common goal.

The journey of the Booleroo Centre and Districts Community Airstrip began with a shared need – a desire for a community airstrip to facilitate the swift evacuation of critically ill or injured patients to Adelaide. It was a vision nurtured by the Booleroo Centre and District Ambulance Service.

The challenges faced along the way were formidable. Acquiring suitable land for the airstrip required delicate negotiations, eventually culminating in the purchase of 50 acres of land from Mrs Claire Nottle. A trained army survey team, in an extraordinary display of goodwill, surveyed the land, foreseeing the potential application of these expertise in establishing airstrips in combat zones overseas.

Generosity flowed from the community. The Piggot Family donated a substantial 8,000 cubic metres of rubble from their Morchard Road farm. The Smith family of Jamestown contributed all the water from the old Booleroo town dam to facilitate construction.

Over 120 volunteers from throughout the district, representing a tapestry of townfolk, farmers and communities, stepped forward. They offered their time and machinery to support the project, using around forty loaders, trucks, and tractors. Council also played a crucial role by providing a grader and a water truck, while two additional water trucks with operators were donated by a local farmer and a local contractor, all without charge. Council workers generously volunteered their time beyond their normal working hours, contributing their expertise and dedication to the project.

In addition to the voluntary contributions, the Booleroo Centre & District Ambulance Service not only funded the entire cost of acquiring the land but also covered the remaining expenses for the construction

of the airstrip, including the installation cost of the lighting and supply of diesel for all the heavy machinery. Their dedication and financial support underscore the remarkable accomplishment that the Booleroo Centre and District Community Airstrip represents for our entire community.

This collective effort wasn't bound by geographical lines but driven by a shared vision of community improvement and wellbeing. The Booleroo Centre and Districts Community Airstrip emerged as a reality thanks to this combined endeavour, showcasing the incredible results of unity.

Upon completion, the Honourable Graham Gunn MP opened the airstrip, announcing a \$10,000 grant for pilot-activated lighting – the only financial contribution from outside our local district. This lighting, ingeniously installed by local volunteers, marked a significant milestone.

To celebrate the airstrip's opening, plane owners from across the state flocked to join the festivities. Private planes from Streaky Bay, Maitland, Aldinga, and various other places across South Australia participated in a memorable 'fly-in.'

This historic event coincided with the annual Booleroo Centre Steam and Traction Rally, making it a day to remember for all.

As we reflect on 25 years of this remarkable asset, it is important to remember that the true name of the airstrip is the Booleroo Centre 'and District' Community Airstrip, emphasising its regional significance.

The community's dedication to this project underscores the immense value of working together towards a shared goal. The Booleroo Centre and District Community Airstrip has saved countless lives and played a pivotal role in our district's progress and wellbeing since its construction.

It stands as a testament to the unity, commitment, and unwavering spirit of our residents and our communities, transcending boundaries and demonstrating the extraordinary achievements that can be reached when we join forces. As we celebrate this 25th anniversary, let us look forward to another 25 years of progress, cooperation, and the enduring strength of collective action.





District Council of
Mount Remarkable

UNDERSTANDING COUNCIL RATES: IT'S A TAX, NOT A FEE FOR SERVICE

There seems to be a common misconception in our community regarding council rates – some believe that these payments are in exchange for specific services rendered to individual properties. We'd like to clarify that council rates are, in fact, a form of property tax, not a fee for service.

What are Council Rates?

Council rates are vital for funding essential services and facilities that benefit our entire community. They support everything from infrastructure renewal and community programs to maintaining our parks and reserves. These funds are crucial for the overall wellbeing of our district.

How are Council Rates Calculated?

Each year, councils, with input from the community through budget submissions and public consultation, determine the services and programs they will provide and create an Annual Business Plan and Budget. From there, they calculate the amount needed through rates. The "rate in the dollar" is calculated by dividing this funding requirement by the total property value in the council area. This figure is then multiplied by the individual property value to determine each ratepayer's contribution.

Why Do Council Rates Increase?

Rates can increase for various reasons, including the need for additional funding to repair damage from natural disasters, rising costs of materials and services, and inflation. It's essential to understand that rate increases are carefully considered to balance community needs with their potential impact on ratepayers.

Why Are Council Rates Different Across South Australia?

Council rates vary from one council to another because each council has unique requirements and services tailored to its community's needs. Factors such as the type of properties, size, population, and location all contribute to the differences in rates.

What Do Council Rates Pay For?

Council rates are the primary source of income for councils and are used to maintain local infrastructure, including parks, public spaces, streetlighting and roads. They also fund crucial services such as waste management, fire prevention and emergency management. Additionally, councils can choose to deliver other services like parks, sporting grounds and clubrooms, town halls, libraries, community support, and business initiatives, depending on local priorities.

Council rates are not a fee for service but a property tax that plays a vital role in sustaining our community's wellbeing and infrastructure.

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A Remarkable Experience...